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PATENT SPECIFICATION



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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Golf Putter with Adjustable Shaft

I, THOMAS ALBERT HAMILTON, British Subject, of "Yoredale," Clarence Road, Hale, Cheshire, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to golf ball putters as used on the greens of golf courses wherein the control of the club for making putts of different length is usually effected by altering the position of the hands on the handle portion of the club, that is to say, for the shorter putts the hands are placed lower down the handle thereby leaving an unwieldy and unbalanced length, longer or shorter according to the length of putt, of shaft above the hands which decreases the golfer's control of the club and consequently his efficiency at the game.

The object of the present invention is to provide a golf ball putter which can be adjusted in the course of play to the effective length desired without materially disturbing the balance or altering the position of the hands of the user on the handle.

Whereas the standard golf ball putter has a shaft of fixed length, according to the present invention putter shafts are formed in two or more parts (usually two) sliding telescopically one within the other adapted to frictionally engage each other and provided with spring means to position the parts relatively to each other in a plurality of adjusted positions, provision being made to prevent any angular movement of the telescopic members relatively to each other about their common axis.

The invention will be more particularly described by the aid of the accompanying drawings wherein the same reference letters or characters relate to the same thing or part and in which:—

Figure 1 is an external view of a putter constructed according to the invention shown in the extended position whilst

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view taken from the rear.

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view showing in detail the locking means and Figure 4 is a plan view of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a view corresponding to Figure 1 but showing the club shortened and as ready for use in making short putts and

Figure 6 is a plan view of the spring mounting means detached.

Figure 7 is a view of the top part of a club constructed according to the invention showing modified locking means.

In carrying the invention into effect according to one convenient manner as illustrated in Figures 1 to 6 the improved club comprises a tubular top portion *a* constituting the handle provided with any suitable form of grip such as the leather wrapping *b*, the cylindrical lower portion *c* of which has an internal diameter corresponding to the external diameter of the cylindrical top portion *c'* of the tubular lower portion *c* of the shaft which at its lower end is adapted to fit into the socket *d* of the head *d'* of the club.

A cap or plug *e* is provided for the top of the handle and rigidly secured thereto is a steel or other metal rod *f* of square shape in cross section adapted to form a good sliding fit in a correspondingly shaped hole in a metal fitment *g* brazed or otherwise rigidly secured near the top end of the cylindrical portion of the shaft element *c* and internally of the same, said fitment *g* having diametrically opposite longitudinal slots formed on the exterior to receive spring tongues *h*, *h* having fingers or extensions *h'* adapted to frictionally grip the bar *f* on opposite sides, see more particularly Figure 3 the top extensions *h'* having the ends bent to form projections *h''* to engage cross slots *f'*, *f'* formed in the bar *f* at predetermined distances apart so as to positively lock the parts in the adjusted position. The lower end of the rod *f* is provided with a collar *f'* which forms a sliding fit for the internal bore of the cylindrical shaft portion *c'* to limit the outward movement or extension of the handle *a* on the shaft *c*.

It will now be seen that with the club head *d* resting on the ground sufficient pressure on the handle *a* in the longitudinal direction will cause the spring catches *h''* to yield and allow said handle *a* to telescope on the shaft portion *c'* to

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the desired extent according to the length of the putt it is desired to make as governed by the desire of the golfer, said spring catches engaging one of the set of notches of cross slots f' in the adjusted position whilst the construction of the club is such that no relative longitudinal or angular movement between the top and bottom portions of the club takes place in use.

According to the modified construction shown in Figure 7 the spring locking tongues h are dispensed with and the end of the handle portion a' is slit at i so as to engage the tubular portion c' of the upper part of the shaft c with a friction grip capable of yielding sufficiently to allow the protuberances k formed by indentations near the end of the handle portion to spring into and out of engagement with the recesses c'' formed in the cylindrical portion c' of the shaft c . The internal arrangement of the club, apart from the omission of the tongues h , h , may be the same as in the preceding example, but if the recesses c'' are formed by indenting the wall of c' the enlargement f'' of the rod f is reduced in diameter to give clearance or said enlargement may be dispensed with. When the head f' is dispensed with the top edge of the tube c' is preferably enlarged or said enlargement may be formed by the heads of small screws serving to position the fitment g in position, the tapered handle portion normally giving clearance for such enlargement whilst preventing the entire withdrawal of the handle.

It has already been proposed to provide golf clubs with telescopic shafts adapted to be adjusted in length by manipulating locking screws and the like. With such clubs however, it is necessary to use both

hands to adjust the shaft and perform the locking and unlocking and they have been primarily designed for making stock clubs which can be adjusted in length to suit the purchaser or which can be assembled to the correct length to suit the purchaser, but the present invention is directed to the production of a putter which may be grasped with both hands on the grip in the playing position and then either lengthened or shortened by merely putting the foot on the head and exerting a pull on the shaft or resting the head on the ground and exerting downward pressure through the grip until the desired length is obtained, whilst actually standing over the ball after judging the length of the putt and without altering the grip of the hands.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

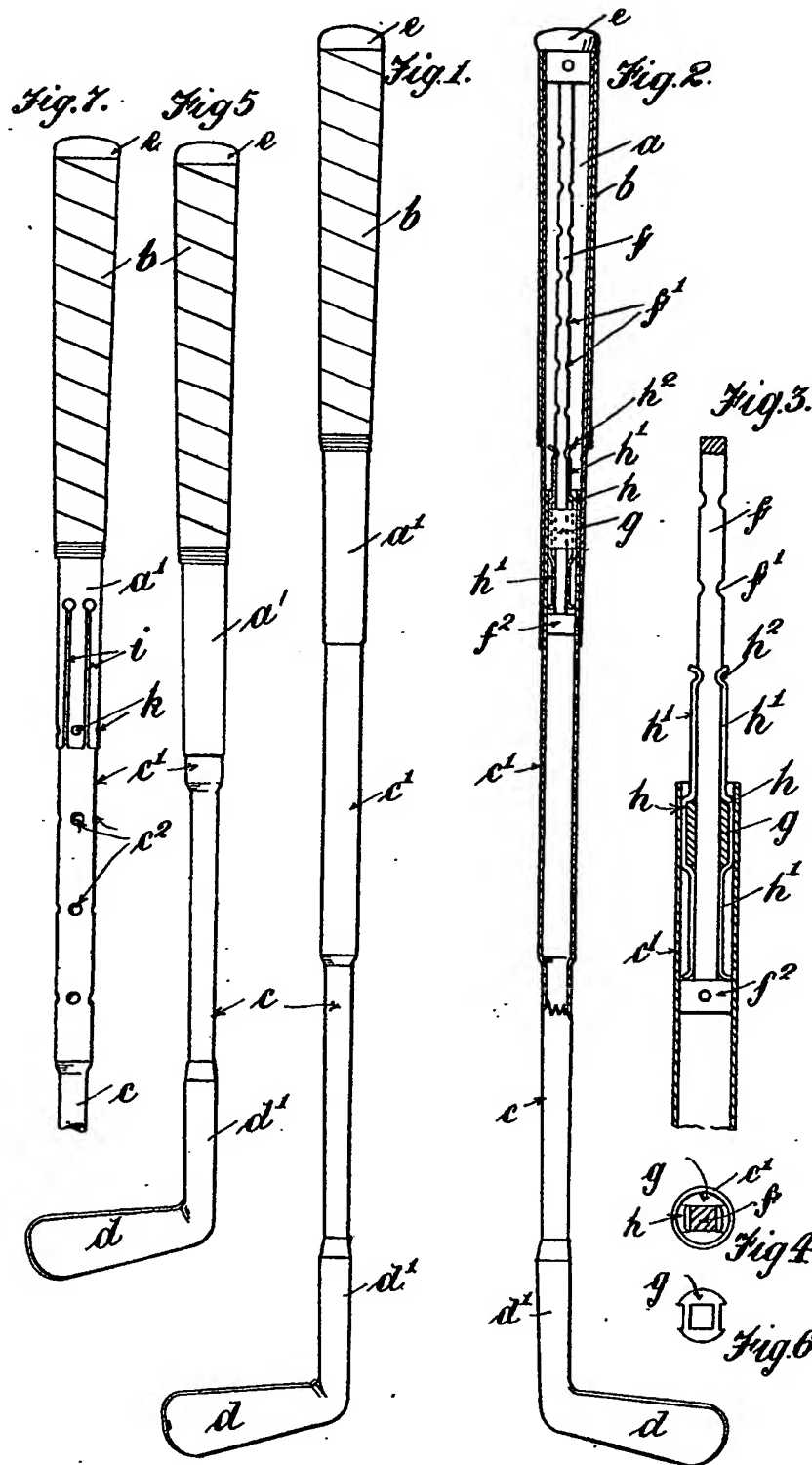
1. A golf ball putter which can be adjusted during the course of play to the effective length desired without altering the position of the hands of the user on the handle, comprising a head having a telescopic shaft with means to prevent relative angular movement and spring locking means to lock the two parts of the shaft together in the longitudinal adjusted position.

2. Golf ball putters, constructed, arranged and operating substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 4th day of June, 1936.

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9, Albert Square, Manchester, 2.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]



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